13 Risks of Using Machine and AI Translation on Sensitive Documents

A PRACTICAL CHECKLIST
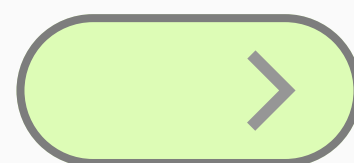
LEGAL RISKS

1

Liability for AI Errors

Companies are legally responsible for AI-generated translation mistakes (e.g., false advertising or misrepresentation).

✅ Always verify AI outputs before publication.

2

Invalid or Rejected Documents

Courts and official institutions often reject machine-translated contracts or submissions.

✅ Use certified human translators for legal or immigration documents.

3

Misinterpretation of Legal Terms

AI can mistranslate legal phrases, leading to serious misunderstandings or case errors.

✅ Ensure a qualified professional reviews legal terminology.

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Impact on Immigration and Asylum Cases

Translation errors can alter names, dates, or pronouns, risking denial of protection or benefits.

✅ Double-check all translated personal and legal details.

DATA SECURITY RISKS

5

Exposure of Sensitive Information

AI tools may store or reuse uploaded content.

✅ Avoid inputting confidential or client data into online AI systems.

6

GDPR and Privacy Compliance

Using global AI services can breach data protection laws.

✅ Confirm compliance with GDPR and local privacy regulations.

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Hallucinations and Fabrications

AI may generate false or misleading content.

✅ Always cross-verify AI translations with trusted sources.

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Cloud Storage Vulnerabilities

Cloud-based AI tools may store data on remote servers.

✅ Use secure, approved platforms for sensitive information.

9

Data Leakage

AI models can unintentionally memorize and reproduce private data.

✅ Limit the amount of personal data shared with AI tools.

10

Overcollection and Secondary Use

Some AI systems collect more data than necessary.

✅ Review privacy policies and restrict data sharing.

11

Prompt Injection Attacks

Malicious prompts can trick AI into revealing confidential data.

✅ Train staff to recognize and avoid unsafe AI interactions.

12

Opaque Data Usage

AI data processing may lack transparency.

✅ Maintain documentation of data sources and consent.

13

Biometric Data Breaches

AI tools using facial or voice recognition store unchangeable identifiers.

✅ Protect biometric data with the highest security standards.

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Summary of Best Practices

- Always use a professional translator with subject-matter expertise for legal and financial documents.

- Ask providers detailed questions about how they handle data security.

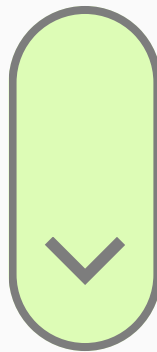- Maintain control of your translation memories and final deliverables.

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